

Make a dream come true!

Rotary  
District 5280



ROTARY:  
MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE

MAY 2018



Caption, please.



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# “Let’s celebrate and collaborate to truly make a difference.”

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## DISTRICT CALENDAR

### May

- 17–20 District Conference  
Hyatt Grand Champions, Indian Wells  
(See [page 7](#))

### June

- 2 District Assembly  
Carson Community Center  
7–Noon
- 10 Shakespeare In The Park / Vets Benefit  
VA West Los Angeles
- 24–27 RI Convention, Toronto  
Metro Toronto Convention Centre  
(See [page 12](#))
- 24 Toronto Harbor Cruise & Reception  
Toronto Harbor  
6:30–9 p.m.  
(See [page 27](#))

*Kristen Lee Hemanes receives a hug, the universal language. See “Colombia: Up Close and Personal” beginning on [page 14](#).*





“Thank you for making a difference  
in people’s lives.”



## GREETINGS DISTRICT 5280 ROTARIANS, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS

By Cozette Vergari, District Governor

**WE HAVE INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY** touched many lives this year. And, chances are, you have made some new friends along the way. Let’s join together to celebrate as the year wraps up!!

### “BETTER TOGETHER” YEAR-END CELEBRATION AT THE ANNUAL DISTRICT CONFERENCE

**We are better together as Rotarians!** Come celebrate the many accomplishments and successes of the Rotary Clubs of District 5280 at the fantastic Hyatt Regency Resort and Spa in Indian Wells, **May 17-20.**

It will be a **fun-filled, family-friendly** weekend. There will be golf, dancing, dining, sharing of ideas

#### UPCOMING:

- District Conference
- International Convention
- Disaster Relief / Tree Planting
- Human Trafficking Event

highlight how **Rotarians Are Better Together**, working within their own club, with other clubs, and with other Rotary Districts from —continues

and successful projects, costume and dance contests, a kids supervised activity room on both Friday and Saturday nights while we enjoy Hospitality Night, and the Governor’s Ball. We will



—continues  
near and far. **It is how we continue to make a difference! Register now.** [Learn More.](#)

### ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION & DISTRICT CRUISE

Celebrate with Rotarians from all over the world in **Toronto, Canada, June 27–29**. Build relationships and share ideas. This is a great opportunity for all Rotarians to see the internationality of Rotary at its best. **Register now!!** [Learn More.](#) **Be sure to also register for the District 5280 Evening Cruise on Sunday, June 24.** We will be joined by District 5240.

### DISASTER RELIEF/ THOMAS FIRES / TREE PLANTING OUTREACH ON SATURDAY, MAY 12

We continue to work with District 5240, to the north of us, in the areas impacted by the Thomas Fires and subsequent mudslides. On May 12 we will be planting trees. If you are interested, please register to volunteer, and we will provide you with details. Information [here](#).

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING INITIATIVE

Yes, slavery is alive and well in our communities, while predators are making millions of dollars through the commercial sexual exploitation of children as well as labor trafficking, literally enslaving

vulnerable children and adults alike. Our own children and grandchildren are at risk and can be targets, so easily through the Internet. **On June 3, the Woodland Hills and Calabasas Clubs are hosting an event to help in the fight against this terrible brutality.** One third of all proceeds raised will be directed toward the District 5280 Charitable Foundation, restricted for the battle against human trafficking within District 5280. (See flyer on [page 24](#) and the Sex Trafficking article on [page 12](#)).

**Thank you, Rotarians, for making a difference in people's lives. ★**

Please direct any questions to Tori Hettinger, District Office administrator, at 310.670.9792 or [Tori.Hettinger@Rotary5280.org](mailto:Tori.Hettinger@Rotary5280.org).

## Tree Planting Outreach

in the areas impacted by  
the Thomas Fires  
and subsequent mudslides

Saturday, May 12

Register to volunteer







## THE VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING

By Michael Turner (Woodland Hills), SAG Communications

*“Everybody can be great. Because anybody can serve.*

*You don’t have to have a college degree to serve.*

*You don’t have to make your subject and your verb  
agree to serve. . . . You don’t have to know the second  
theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve.*

*You only need a heart full of grace.*

*A soul generated by love.”*

*~Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

**ROTARY’S FOCUS IN MAY IS YOUTH.** They are the future and by connecting them with Rotary increases their self-esteem, involves them in community service and teaches them valuable skills that they can apply to their education and career. Rotary offers teenagers and young adults two paths that cover some 18 years: Interact and Rotaract.

**Interact**



**Interact opens the door to students 12–18.** Interact clubs are based at junior and high schools. They run two service projects a year and meet at least twice a month.

They also participate in projects that are conducted by their sponsoring club as well as community events.

**Rotaract**



**In college Interactors can transition to Rotaract clubs that serve young adults between 18 and 30.**

These clubs also are sponsored by a local Rotary club, but there is a difference from Interact. Rotaract members manage and fund their clubs independently and run their projects.

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### HERE ARE SOME OF BENEFITS OF JOINING A ROTARACT OR INTERACT CLUB:

- Development of an increased sense of social responsibility with a global view of society and a heart for “giving back” and helping others
- Exposure to diversity and multiculturalism
- An opportunity to apply what they learn to their education and careers
- Establishing relationships and “social connectedness” with peers, Rotarians, community leaders, and activists.
- Improvement in oral and written communications, critical thinking, organizational, decision making, time management, and leadership skills

### VOLUNTEERING BY TEENS AND YOUNG ADULTS

has been on a steady rise over the past two decades according to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). Volunteering also taps into their innate desire to be independent in a productive way and teaches them the value of gratitude. By starting children at a young age in volunteering helps them make a critical connection between helping others and their own happiness. Even if volunteering




is a part of their high school or college curriculum, or scholarship requirements, they can become passionate of volunteer activities, which will then be engrained across their lives.

I truly believe that shaping our young people into healthy and productive adults who are engaged in their community is the best long-term investment that Rotary can make to society. ★

Polio still cripples thousands of children around the world. With your help, we can wipe this disease off the face of the earth forever. Visit [endpolionow.org](http://endpolionow.org) to help.

**END POLIO NOW**

  
Rotary

We Are **ThisClose** to Ending Polio.

Amanda Peet







**Join us and  
celebrate  
Rotary**

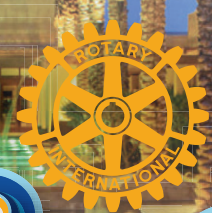
**We are  
BETTER  
TOGETHER!**

**Register  
Today**

# DISTRICT CONFERENCE 2018

MAY 17 - MAY 20

**Better  
Together**



**HYATT  
REGENCY®  
RESORT**

**HYATT REGENCY INDIAN WELLS  
RESORT & SPA  
44-600 Indian Wells Lane  
Indian Wells, CA 92210**

*Choreographed by*

**District Governor Cozette Vergari**

Some things are just "Better Together".  
Chips & Salsa... Wine & Cheese... Lucy & Ricky...

***Fred & Ginger.***

May 17 - 20th, "swing" over to the District Conference for a jazzy,  
family friendly Rotary Weekend tango at the Hyatt Regency  
Indian Wells Resort & Spa. An entire weekend of  
Rotary fellowship and fun activities.

***Join us and celebrate Rotary. We are BETTER TOGETHER!***





When Cozette Vergari became District Governor, protecting children from child sex trafficking was a

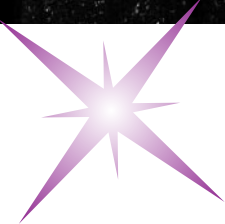
goal she was most passionate about. To assist her in the endeavor, Cozette wanted to find key figures in Rotary and the community to collaborate with.

In part two of this story, Superior Court Judge Catherine Pratt, pictured above, talks about the **STAR** system she initiated: **S**uccess **T**hrough **A**ction and **R**esilience. Judge Pratt maintains a one-on-one relationship with child victims who are brought to her on prostitution charges. For example, she puts them on probation, not in jail, and they report to her every month so she has a hands-on relationship with them and knows their progress. Most courts only order a visit every six months. Her approach makes a tremendous difference.



# SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

## *Some remedies for victims*



### STAR COURT, PART II

By Lorine Parks (Downey), Senior Correspondent

*An exclusive interview with Catherine Pratt, child sex exploitation judge in the Los Angeles Superior Court*

**DOES THE JUDGE HAVE TROUBLE**, or do victims, relating to her as a blonde white woman, when 80% of the girls are Afro-American, and most of

the rest are Hispanic? "You have to take time to get to know them one by one and build trust," said the judge. "They come into the system trusting no





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one. One day, one girl asked me if I had been 'in the life'? That's their way to describe someone who has been involved in prostitution. She said to me, 'You understand us and you get it.' That made me proud.

"Daily, children from 9 to 17 are arrested for prostitution. We believe in individual support for these sexually exploited minors," said the judge. No shackles or orange jumpsuits when they enter her courtroom.

### HOW SUCCESSFUL HAS THE JUDGE'S

**APPROACH BEEN?** "In over seven years, working with 500 girls, we have had a 72% success rate."

**WHAT IS SUCCESS?** "It varies. In this case it means they have not been rearrested as juveniles or adults for prostitution or a related crime," said the judge.

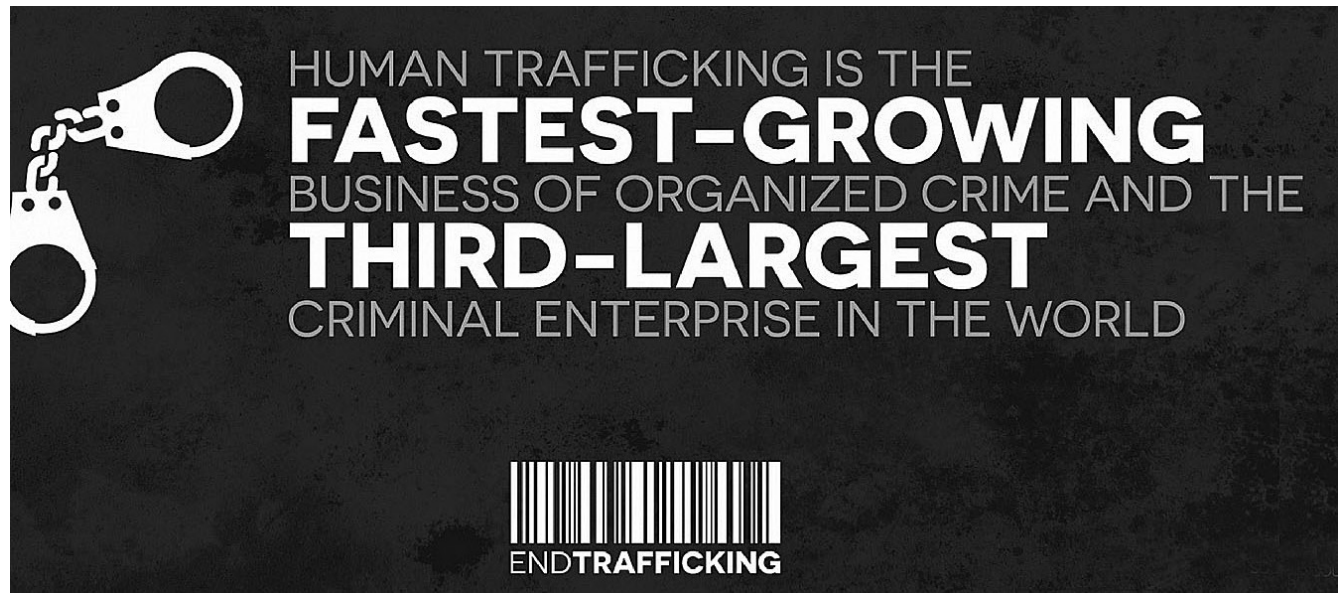
Emotionally, the girls have a hard time breaking away from their pimps.

### WHAT IS THE PUBLIC'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THIS PREVALENT SOCIAL PROBLEM?

Twenty years ago, people didn't believe these girls, as young as 10 and 12, were victims. Pratt was the

one to bring people like former Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe into the advocacy group to support this kind of court. "I was just horrified," he said. "I have grandchildren that age. I was stunned that it was in my own backyard."

### WHY DON'T THE GIRLS LEAVE? WHY DON'T THEY REPORT ABUSE AND VIOLENCE AT THE



**HANDS OF THEIR PIMPS?** "Many of the girls came from broken homes, have a long history of abuse and neglect, and developed an 'ambivalent attitude' toward their pimps. Emotionally they have a hard time breaking away. Breaking away is what I would like to see happen more," commented Judge Pratt.

The **#METOO** movement for women's empowerment in sexual harassment cases might change these girls' attitude. "If more professional athletes come forward that would help," said the judge, "like the young gymnasts who were abused by US gymnastic's team doctor, Dr. Larry Nasser, who was recently sentenced to more than 300 years in prison."

**WHAT WORLD?** "The world of gangs. Rules are different there," commented the judge. "One thing they have to learn is the new rules in the 'straight' world. That's where we help them. And we expect

them to fail before they can perform consistently. After all, the 'R' in STAR stands for resilience, which includes picking yourself up after a mistake. They may be acting a certain way, running away, and putting themselves in very unsafe situations."

**HOW DOES JUDGE PRATT BALANCE ENFORCING DISCIPLINE WHILE NOT MAKING THE GIRLS FEEL LIKE FAILURES?** How can she not judge punish them because they are victims, even when they are obviously making bad decisions?

If pimps tempt girls to go back to the sex trade by while they are on probation, **HOW CAN THEY BE STOPPED?** If you don't believe in locking them up, that is.

"There are ways," said the judge. "If the 'home' gets wind of their plans to leave, they can —continues



If a pimp learns of girls' plans to leave, the girls might be moved to a remote location. Sometimes it's just as simple as removing their shoes. They aren't going far without shoes when 20 miles from a paved road.



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move them to a remote location. Sometimes it's just as simple as removing their shoes. They aren't going far without shoes, 20 miles from a paved road."

#### WHAT SHOULD THE GENERAL PUBLIC KNOW?

"They should reach out and encourage these girls, once they come into foster or group homes, which is usually where they go when on probation. Sometimes they are placed back in their original home or maybe with a relative, like an aunt, who runs a foster home. They need to be encouraged and supported."

**WHAT CAN BE DONE ON A LARGE SCALE?** The airlines have started an awareness training program. For an example, on an Alaska Airlines flight from Seattle to San Francisco about six months ago, the

Awareness training, anti-bullying campaigns, and jobs help these girls get on the right track.

flight attendant noticed a young girl was with a much older man, and he was making all her decisions, like whether she wanted a soft drink from the cart or not. So when the girl went to the lavatory the attendant followed her and slipped her a note asking, 'Are you in trouble? Do you want help?'"

The girl managed to answer, 'yes,' and the flight was met by the FBI, who separated her from her man. Eventually Judge Pratt hopes the young victim make their way to a STAR court where they could begin rehab and return to society.

Uber drivers has received this training, too. They are being taught to listen to conversations between their passengers. Restaurant workers are trained as well to start an intervention.

Another area is the anti-bullying campaign. "These victimized girls are part of this," said Judge Pratt. "But you don't have to emphasize the 'sex' part." They are driven into by low self-esteem just as any other victim is, by someone even lower than they are, if they only knew it."

Another way to help is getting jobs for these girls. "There are funds available to pay their wages if an employer hires them. They are usually are not disruptive, can be proud of earning wages, while their employers are not out of money if they can't afford to pay them.

#### DO YOU KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE GIRLS AFTER THEY GET OFF PROBATION?

"Yes, we are touch with about 22% of the girls. I am so proud of that. I was invited by one to come to her high school graduation. When she asked me to come, my first thought was when, how far, what traffic. But I realized that if I raised those questions with her, it would sound like 'no,' so I just said yes.

"But I was late, got there just as it started and had to stand in the doorway, where at first she didn't see me. I could see she looked as though she was going to cry. But then she did see me, and as a stranger who came up to me afterwards said, 'I don't know who you are, but God bless you. I saw the way that girl's face lighted up.' And she was the —continues





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valedictorian for the class,” Judge Pratt said. “I also had written a beautiful poem and she was so glad I came.”

“These girls are smart. Maybe only the ones who have survived this far are smart,” said the judge, “and that is why. But these are not ‘throw-away’ kids, no, no. But these girls don’t see themselves initially as victims. No, they want to be independent. They need to learn

why they feel so emotionally dependent on their pimps and do as they say.”

“This problem is on every street corner and in America.”

—Judge Pratt

**DOES THE JUDGE HAVE TIME FOR HOBBIES AND RECREATION WITH ALL THE EXTRACURRICULAR FOLLOW-UP SHE DOES?**

“No time,” she said. “But I do have two dogs. And I like

to work in the garden and sit on the beach.” A contemplative way to recover one’s balance.

**WHEN YOU ARE OUT AND ABOUT, DO THE GIRLS KNOW RECOGNIZE YOU?** “No, they often don’t. They may say, they know my face is familiar, but they can’t place me. One of them did ask, ‘Are you on the team?’ When I said no, and told her I was the judge, she said, ‘Oh my God.’”

**WHAT DOES JUDGE PRATT WANT TO SEE HAPPEN?** “To let people know and understand and see.” This problem is on every street corner and in America. It’s not a Third World situation of being sold



into sex slavery in Nepal. Its girls waiting at motels in Artesia, Santa Monica, and Woodland Hills.

Judge Pratt also travels across the country speaking to judges, attorneys and probation officers about how the STAR program and how it can change lives. She just came back from teaching a class in North Carolina. Training is what she emphasizes, in how to manage these girls so they will learn to respect themselves. She is glad to conduct training programs, but she said, “It was a lot of work.”

**ARE THERE STAR COURT SYSTEMS ELSEWHERE?**

Yes! Judge Pratt was able to rattle off a list. Sacramento; Orange County; San Diego, where the program is called, RISE Court, which stands for *Resiliency Is Strength and Empowerment*; Fresno; Philadelphia; Houston; and Minneapolis. The striking thing was, not that there were some, but that there were so few, and that she was able to name them. This will change because the National Council of Juvenile Court Judges has instituted nationwide training for courts.

**WHAT ARE THE NAMES OF SOME OF THE GROUPS THAT ARE WORKING ON THIS?**

“One is called ‘With Two Wings.’ They offer our kids job training. Another nonprofit, ‘Saving Innocence’ fights sexual exploitation of children. Its shabby, unmarked offices are a place where girls can come to feel safe and get off the streets. Young social workers in their 20s become professional mentors who visit the girls once a week and help them with everything from enrolling in school to setting up doctor’s appointments, to applying for internships, to dressing for a job interview, to creating a personal budget.”

Judge Pratt is a graduate of UC Berkeley and has a law degree from USC. In 2015, Governor Jerry Brown promoted her from Commissioner of the Juvenile Delinquency Court to the Superior Court of Los Angeles County.

In 2016, County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas honored the STAR Court with the John Anson Ford Award, which is the Second District’s recognition for human Relations. “The STAR Court —continues





*Victimized children are controlled by fear.*

—continues

operates out of the Compton Courthouse and is led by the vision, compassion and energy of its founder, L.A. County Superior Court Judge Catherine J. Pratt,” said the supervisor. The court provides specialized trauma-informed care linking youth to appropriate resources, making a life-saving difference for survivors of child sex trafficking.”

Domestic violence is the big picture here, and to work to obliterate its causes is essential. Peace begins not at the United Nations, but in our own communities, with anger management classes, family counseling, and compassion.

**IS THIS HARD WORK?** “These girls are hard to work with. They have an ‘attitude.’ And some of them are ‘a\*\*holes.’ You gotta wanta do it.”

**WHO CARES?** Judge Pratt, a remarkable one-woman dynamo, does. ★



# Rotary International Convention

## Toronto, June 27–29

[REGISTER TODAY](#)







*Membership Matters:*  
**TAKE ACTION TODAY!**  
**INVITE SOMEONE**  
**TO JOIN US**

By Kathleen Terry (Manhattan Beach)  
SAG Membership

**THE WORLD NEEDS MORE ROTARIANS** and it is up to us to reach out and invite others to join us and share the rotary moments with them. What are you waiting for? Take the action today to invite a friend, colleague or community leader to a meeting or a service project.

The following comments were made by Dr. Garbis Der Yeghian, PDG of adjoining RI District 5300.

**A Rotarian is a Person:**

- Who digs wells from which they will never drink
- Who vaccinates a child they will never meet
- Who restores eyesight for those they will never see
- Who builds housing for those they will never know



*PDG Elsa Gillham, left, and DGN Melody St. John, center, helping a boy plant a tree during the District's recent humanitarian trip to Colombia.*

**ROTARY TAKES ORDINARY PEOPLE AND GIVES THEM AN OPPORTUNITY** to do extraordinary things they could never accomplish by themselves. Only through Rotary can one person make a difference. We will never know how a new Rotarian might change the world. Share the joy of Rotary with

someone else. Invite them to be your guest at a club meeting. You will be doing them a favor.

If you'd like me to come to your club to share about membership, contact me at [terrymanna2@gmail.com](mailto:terrymanna2@gmail.com) or 310.545.4046. I'm here to support you! ★





# COLOMBIA: UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

By Lorine Parks (Downey), Senior Correspondent

INTIMATE VIEWS  
FROM THOSE WHO  
PARTICIPATED IN  
THE DISTRICT'S  
HUMANITARIAN  
TRIP TO COLOMBIA

## ROTARIANS IN COLOMBIA

- 140 Rotarians participated
- 43 Rotary Clubs were represented, including Rotarians from Districts 4271 and 4281 in Colombia
- Eight TRF Global Grants were implemented
- \$966,708 of services and goods were provided through partnerships at many levels



*Kristen Lee Hemanes receives a hug, the universal language*

## KRISTEN'S STORY

*Kristen Lee Hemanes (Playa Venice)*

"The country was beautiful and lush. The people were appreciative and gracious. Colombian Rotarians were so friendly and loving! We had a police escort the entire time we were in Bucaramanga, so we definitely felt safe.

"I really enjoyed our visit to Andrés in Chía. So spectacular! I love that dance is a part of their culture, and they learn it at a very young age.

"The water purification project was the only Global Grant project 5280 I was directly involved with. Before water purification systems were installed, children were getting sick, and parents stopped sending them to school. Now schools have potable water with which to prepare meals, so having access to clean water keeps the children in school. It's a win-win: The children get food AND an education. —continues





—continues

"Those receiving aid from Rotary were so grateful. Many of the children loved taking photos with us, and a few were fascinated that I am Chinese. :)."

"I often used Google Translate to communicate with the people. Smartphone usage is universal! LOL~."

"Local Rotary clubs were heavily involved in the projects with us and traveled with us to all the project sites."

#### Kristen is a four-year Rotarian.

"Rotary has given my husband and me opportunities to volunteer for organizations we were unfamiliar with."

She was especially moved by the Armenia International Shoe Project, which helps women learn to make and sell shoes. She was also moved by private donations from a Rotarian who provided a home for a family in the Displaced Persons' Camp. When the new house was revealed, the family's autistic daughter was, for the first time, smiling and dancing!

**Kristen's take-away from the Colombia experience** is that "Rotary has an amazing impact on lives around the world! And I also need to become a little more fluent in Spanish!"



*Auriel Morh, left, and her mom, Sonia, with Colombian school children.*

## THE MOHR FAMILY STORY

*Steve and Sonia Mohr (El Segundo) and daughter, Auriel*

"We were involved with Operation Smile," said Steve. "Auriel enjoyed that the most, and Sonia did, too."

"Children who participated in Operation Smile are emotionally and physically strengthened due to the corrective surgery that allows them to feel 'normal' and to interact normally with other kids and in their community. Their self-esteem is boosted tremendously, and they will be able to eat, speak, and look normal. Best of all, they will be able to SMILE!!"

"The results will have a similar impact on the mothers of these children," said Sonia. "I am sure parents somehow blame themselves or feel it's their fault their children were born with defects. The corrective surgery helps alleviate much of the emotional pressure and/or guilt they may feel. And that they could not financially help their children to have the procedure was probably very depressing, too."

"I enjoyed planting trees," said Steve. We all think our trees will endure the longest of all the projects. Our  
—continues



impression of the countryside was that Colombia was very green.

"Lots of pretty flowers and plants, but the roads were very rough and the rides we took were unusually bumpy. It rained a few times, and it was overcast most of the time. We found the people to be warm, friendly, cordial and hospitable wherever we visited. The city was fairly modern and reminded

"Seeing how other don't have the opportunities we do puts our life back in perspective."

—Steve Mohr

us of Mexico City. We had problems with our cellphone, making communication somewhat challenging.

"In spite of these problems, we

all felt quite safe. There was a lot of security and police presence, but we did not think the police are as well-trained or prepared as those in the U.S. Security guards were posted in and around our hotel, and they continuously checked to see who entered and exited. We liked this A LOT! You can NEVER be too safe or too prepared.

"Vegetables were fresh, and the fruits



*Sonia and Steve Mohr planting trees in Colombia*

and fruit drinks were really good. The coffee also was really good! We liked the steaks. We enjoyed meeting all the children, particularly the in the schools we visited. Auriel was VERY comfortable interacting with the children, and she is almost fluent in Spanish. She got a chance to practice Spanish while teaching the kids."

"For me, the language difference could have been an issue, because I'm not Spanish-speaking. But, since Sonia and Auriel can speak and understand Spanish, and since we were together

all the time, the language and communicating was not a problem for any of us. In addition, almost everyone we met seemed to be fluent in English!"

"We felt we had enough time to see the city," said Steve, "but we also wished for more time with the kids.

"Making this trip made us VERY grateful for what we have, and Auriel learned to be more appreciative for the things she has. She also learned that she needs to try harder, because

she has things that kids in Colombia don't have.

"What we all took away from this experience is what to be thankful for, and how lucky we are to have clean water, food, electricity, educational opportunities, people who love us, gainful employment, the ability to travel and leave our country, and music lessons.

"Seeing how others don't have the opportunities we do puts our life back in perspective. We often take things for granted. We really should learn to better appreciate what we have. Auriel said the trip also helped her learn to like herself and appreciate the opportunities she has much more."

"We met with local Rotary clubs and we made a lot of new friends," said Sonia.

**Steve and Sonia have been Rotarians** in the El Segundo Club for almost a year and just earned their blue badges.

**The Mohr family take-away?** "We didn't realize how much Rotary really does and how many great people belong to the different clubs. Rotarians are the BEST!" ★





# ROTARACTORS: RUNNING SO OTHERS CAN WALK

By Sarah Furie (Angel City Rotoract), Rotaract Correspondent



*Christopher Reyes, left, and Christopher Becerra*

**“IT’S 6 A.M., AND A SEA OF PEOPLE** prepare to run across the City of Angels from the Stadium to the Sea,” says Christopher Becerra, an Angel City Rotaractor, who recounts the morning of the Los Angeles Marathon.

All of the  
“End Polio  
Now”  
runners  
successfully  
crossed the  
finish line.

The Rotary team included Chris Reyes, Charisse Older, Christopher Becerra, Ana Rosales, Brady Connell, Hampton Cantrell, Nick Lara, Bryant Budiman, and Laura Parker, who trained effortlessly and fundraised tirelessly for the past six months to “End Polio Now.”

Chris Becerra continued, “Before we know it the horn went off, and thousands of Angelenos ran off into the dimly lit skyline. What followed was six hours of awe-inspiring views and excruciating pain. The source of energy

that propelled us to charge forward came from the reminder that we were all running for a greater cause. Whether it was running for a relative that has passed

away, research for a disease or vaccinations for polio, knowing that every stride impacted the lives of those in need propelled us to reach the sea.”

**DRENCHED IN BLOOD, SWEAT AND TEARS**, all of the “End Polio Now” runners successfully crossed the finish line. Chris Becerra had run 5ks and 10ks before but he had never run a marathon. He wanted to challenge himself this year and decided to join Rotary’s team. With six miles left to go, Becerra felt a pull in his left knee. He hobbled to the nearest medical tent to get his leg wrapped and continued on, limping painfully for the next six miles to finish the race. When asked why he would walk six miles in excruciating pain, he said fervently, “I had to finish what I started.”

As expected, the runners were sore for the next few days, but they felt it was totally worth it. At the time of the race, the “End Polio Now” team had raised more than \$6,000. The fundraising effort has not yet ended, and if you wish to support them please [click here](#). ★





# PROVIDING QUALITY EDUCATION IN NEPAL

By Peter Hall, RC Kyneton, District 9800, Australia, President of Quality Education Nepal Incorporated



**IMAGINE SENDING YOUR CHILDREN** to a school where teachers have no tertiary education and little training. What education would they receive? Yet, that is how most children in Nepal, the poorest country outside Africa, receive their education.

Visit the promotional booth in the House of Friendship at the RI Convention

Australian Rotary project, "Quality Education Nepal," has been addressing this issue since 2011. One-hundred-fifty teachers have completed three years basic training (50 days) and are now receiving annual refresher training. Another 150 have since been brought into the program, including an intake of 75 funded by a Rotary Foundation Global Grant project.

Training is delivered by LEARN (Lifting Education, Advancing Rural Nepal), a NGO established in 2014, specifically devoted to this program. The trainers are experienced Nepalese teachers with master's qualifications. Their language, culture, and

knowledge of the curriculum allow them to deliver training more effectively and at far lower cost than any vocational exchange program—just \$15.50 per trainee day. A memorandum of understanding with the Department of Education ensures that the programs are aligned with government policy, with DoE staff actively involved in the program delivery.

**TO REACH MORE TEACHERS** we need more Global Grant projects, each providing 50 days of training for 70–80 teachers. If your club make even a modest commitment to a project over a three-year time-frame, you can help us reach many more teachers. Please email [peter@nepalaid.org.au](mailto:peter@nepalaid.org.au) to explore the possibilities. Find out more [here](#), watch the [videos](#), or visit us in the House of Friendship at the RI International Convention in Toronto.

Our best promotion for the project to date has been at the Conventions in Sydney and Seoul, and we'll have a booth in the House of Friendship at Toronto, but we don't need to wait till then. With your help we can find the funding to start another project sooner. ★





*Imaginative Club Project*

## WHAT IT'S LIKE WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE TAP WATER

By Lorine Parks (Downey)  
Senior Correspondent

### DAILY, RURAL VILLAGERS IN NORTHERN

**UGANDA** must walk a couple of miles, one way, for their family's water. And a five-gallon water container weighs 40 pounds. Women and children fetch the water for drinking, cooking, bathing, laundry, and personal hygiene. One container isn't enough for a family, so women often carry a container on their head, a child on their back, and a container in a hand.

You can join Glendale Sunrise and Aid Africa to help District 5280 Rotarians bring clean water to villages in Uganda at the Walk for Water on June 9 at



Montrose Community Park. Registration begins at 9 a.m. The park is at 3529 Clifton Place, Glendale.

"Although our goal is to raise money," said Peter Keller, organizer of the event, "we do it by educating people, showing them what it's like for the billions of people who don't have running water in their homes, and who have to travel long distances to get water.

"If clean water is too far," Peter added, "they drink from unclear sources, where pigs and cattle have waded. Eighty percent of contagious diseases are water born. If we can provide clean water, we can cut their rates of infection by 80%! And that includes cholera, typhoid, and amebic dysentery. Then there's the intestinal worms and stagnant water breeding mosquitoes that spread malaria."

—continues



## MEET PETER KELLER, WALK FOR WATER ORGANIZER

### Why did Peter join Rotary?

“My friend Ken Goyer, who invented the Rocket Stove now used around the world, was a Rotarian in Eugene, Oregon. In 2004, RI sent him on a world tour to demonstrate his new, life-saving stove. It is ubiquitous now. When he returned, he came to visit us and said: ‘Of all the places I’ve seen in the world, northern Uganda needs the most help. I’m going to go there and build 10,000 stoves. Do you want to go with me?’”

“I was a television editor, just finishing a season of *The West Wing*,” said Peter. “This is what I wanted to do when I grow up! I was 58 then, 70 now. So, I examined our finances with my wife, Irene, and I was able to stop working and live on her school teacher’s salary. I started volunteering full time with Aid Africa.

“I followed Ken around for about three years,” said Peter, “learning about his big heart and that there’s nothing we can’t do. When Peter died of cancer in 2010, I took over as executive director of Aid Africa. Ken always told me I should be a Rotarian, but my job didn’t allow the time to participate until I joined in 2008. It’s obvious this is where I should be! Rotarian goals are my goals.”

—continues

**THE AID AFRICA PROJECT** provides clean water by digging shallow wells, sheltering springs, and repairing broken boreholes (wells). “We also plant trees for both food and fuel,” said Peter. “We grow and distribute Valencia oranges, mangoes, jackfruit, papayas, and custard apples. Some of the trees that are used for fuel can grow 15 feet a year. Giving a family just four trees can supply them with enough fuel to cook. And, we distribute efficient wood-burning cooking stoves as well. The stoves use less than a third of the fuel compared to a traditional open fire and reduces smoke by about 80%.”

African  
crafts  
are for sale  
at the end  
of the  
walk.

Thirty-five percent of gender-based violence in Uganda occurs while women are gathering firewood for cooking. “We call it firewood rape,” commented Peter. “Both the trees and stoves help mitigate the opportunity for this crime.

**“OUR FIRST WALK FOR WATER** was in July 2014, and while we made a fair amount of money, people would come, get their T-shirt, run, and leave. They had no interest in Aid Africa and our projects. For us, awareness-raising was just as important as fundraising. So, board member Julie Jacks came up with the idea of assembling birthing kits, and that sparked interest.”

What’s in a birthing kit? Soap, a clean blade to cut the umbilical cord, a clean cord to tie the umbilical

cord, and a clean sheet for the mother and baby to lie on after delivery. “Making a kit is a hands-on activity,” said Peter. “Each year, 500,000 African babies die on the first day of their lives. We get to assemble kits that will be used to save lives, and we’ve done that every year.

“Last year,” said Peter, “we made about \$5,000 from the Walk for Water. I’m hoping for \$7,000 this year. Last year we had about 30 participants, and we’re hoping for 40 or more this year. Walkers pay \$25 and get a T-shirt. We also offer bottled water and snacks. We ask walkers to find sponsorships among their friends and family, and we like to each participant to bring in at least \$100.

“Our ‘course’ is one-mile and takes walkers through the Montrose Shopping Park, where there are about 80 retail stores. Beforehand, we contact each of the merchants to see if they would like to give a small gift or discount to those who are wearing our distinctive T-shirt. We usually get about 20 of them to offer something. We’ll try to do a bit of Rotary membership recruiting at the same time,” added Peter.

**AT THE END OF THE WALK**, African crafts are for sale. “The important thing is to get something African into people’s homes.”

“We are friends with Brenda Wall from the Poulsbo North Kitsap, West Africa club,” said Peter. “She organized a Walk for Water for the benefit of Aid Africa in 2013. So, I borrowed her idea, planning, and logo for our event here in the L.A. area.” —continues





—continues

Although we don't market our programs as such," said Peter, "they are aimed at women. Women do all the work. Men have nothing to do and culturally are barred from doing what is considered 'women's work.' The rate of alcoholism and suicide is very high among men in rural villages. We do see a few men farming, tending the children, and getting firewood. We need to hold them up as examples. It's a paradox: While here we talk about women's empowerment, there I talk about men's empowerment. Men don't feel they are allowed to do the physical chores that women do. We need to show them they are capable!

"While we're in the villages," said Peter, "we use our time to talk about other issues including basic sanitation and hygiene, HIV, alcoholism, farming

techniques, and climate change. There are over a million refugees in northern Uganda. They escaped from South Sudan where there is terrible tribal conflict."

There are over 30 Rotary Clubs in Kampala," said Peter, "and Rotary is thriving there. I've visited about a half dozen clubs. The Governor of Uganda-

Tanzania District 9211 is Ken Mushiga, and I'll be in contact with him on this next trip.

**AID AFRICA OFFERS A 19-DAY TOUR** for \$3,000, per person, land only, which includes hotels,

meals, transportation, and park admissions. Airfare in April was \$774 roundtrip. In July it's about \$1,250.

This is an unbeatable price for a once-in-a-lifetime trip." [For information.](#) ★



*Sponsored by Glendale Sunrise Rotary  
to benefit Aid Africa's Clean Water Projects*

# Walk for Water

**Saturday June 9, 2018** (Website says June 2)  
**Montrose Community Park**

3529 Clifton Place, Glendale

**9 a.m.** Registration | **10 a.m.** Walk begins | **1 p.m.** Event ends

If you're unable to join us,  
make a donation [here](#). (Not a valid site.)

For information call Glendale Sunrise Rotary  
and Aid Africa: 818-249-2398





*Flanking Deacon Russ Porter, center, are Rabbi Paul Kipnes, left, and Shaykh Suhail Mullah.*

### Follow-up

## WOODLAND HILLS PEACE CONFERENCE

By Lorine Parks (Downey), Senior Correspondent

**A DEACON, A RABBI, AND A MULLAH** walk in and sit down to talk about Conflict, Chaos, and Kumbayah. Why? For something as simple as

seeing how religions can work together for peace and understanding.

The date was March 10, and the

occasion was the Woodland Hill's Second Annual Luncheon and Interfaith Panel. The subject: *Chaos, Conflict, Kumbaya: Can Religion Solve*

*the Problems in our Community? World?* Club President Paul Gross, organizer and originator of the panel, had a one-word description: Fantastic!

The speakers were Rabbi Paul Kipnes of Congregation Or Ami; Taleb Alsafi, Resident Quran Reciter, the Islamic Society of the West Valley; Shaikh Suhail Mullah, Resident Scholar, the Islamic Society of the West Valley; and Dr. Ross Porter, director of Faith Formation & Evangelization, St. Mel Catholic Church.

Last year's program was developed after Paul, in a mood of anger, refused to pose in a picture that was being sent to a mosque as a gesture of friendship. Paul, a Jew and whose parents had survived the Holocaust, found himself brimming with resentment over centuries of persecution. But he knew this anger was destructive, so he tried to find a way to defuse it and turn it to peace.

### **MEDIATORS BEYOND BORDERS**

facilitated table discussions. "What seemed to be the most important point was the comment, is religion like a flame? It can be used to light up the room or to burn it down. It's up to us to use religion as a vehicle of love," said Paul. —continues





—continues

**DID IT HELP THE CAUSE OF PEACE?** “It did! Many attendees said they would spread the word of what they saw today. The way the three clergy gave their perspectives on religions showed love and respect. One of the most gratifying moments for me was after the event and some visiting Rotarians said they wanted to do this in their communities. I loved that! I am more than happy to help them in any way possible.”

**DO YOU FEEL THE EVENT CHANGED ANY MINDS?** “Difficult to say if it ‘changed’ any minds,” said Paul, “but I know for certain it ‘opened’ up people’s minds. I want to invite women clergy for next year’s panel. I also want to increase the role of the club’s Peace Committee.

If your club would like information about conducting a similar panel in your community, contact Paul Gross at [pgross@wradvisors.com](mailto:pgross@wradvisors.com). ★

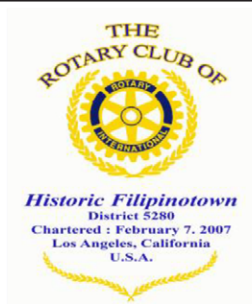
## CLUB 62

News from District 5280 Clubs



**Redondo Beach Rotary** welcomed nine new Young Professional members. PDG Eli Gauna talked about the history of Rotary.





**Rotary Club of Historic Filipinotown  
Cordially Invites You to Show Our**

***ROTARY PRIDE***

**Saturday, May 12, 2018 6pm-12mn**

With a FUN evening of *Dinner*,

**LIVE BAND ENTERTAINMENT,**

**DANCING & DOOR PRIZES**

**with Surprise Presentation**

**Filipino Cultural Center (FCC)**

**1740 Temple St., Los Angeles, CA.**

**\$50 per person (\$65 per person after May 3, 2018)**

*(Proceeds to Benefit Rotary Project in the Community and International)*

**SAVE THE DATE – SAVE THE DATE – SAVE THE DATE**



## **The Rotary Clubs of Calabasas & Woodland Hills**

**PROUDLY PRESENT THE**

### **Rotary Casino Nite & Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament**

**To Benefit Rotary's**

**Fight to End Human Trafficking**

**With Special Honoree, Governor Cozette Vergari, District 5280**

***Sunday Night June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018***

**World Famous Canyon Club in Agoura**

**Doors Open at 5:00 PM**



**Dinner & Drink included with both Casino Night \$125 or  
Poker Tournament \$200 Entry Fee**

**Really Great Prizes for All Final Table Players**

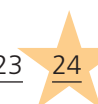
**Fabulous Live & Silent Auction Items**

**Sponsor Opportunities Available-Auction Item Donations Accepted**

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**Lonnie Mintz @ 818-298-1108 or [lonniemintz@rodeore.com](mailto:lonniemintz@rodeore.com)**

**Jeff Stern @ 818-398-9350 or [jastern@pacbell.net](mailto:jastern@pacbell.net)**



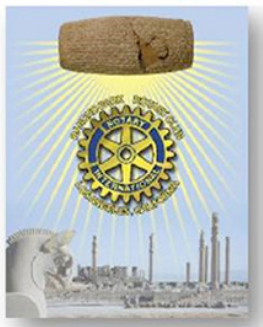




(Left) **Rio Hondo–Vernon Club** members Jatindar and Rosie Singh received their Paul Harris society pins. DG Cozette Vergari made the presentation.  
(Right) **Westchester** is preparing for its annual Book Sale, set for Friday, May 25 - 31 in the Ralph's parking lot at Sepulveda and Manchester in Westchester.  
Drop off locations can be found at [www.westchesterbooksale.com](http://www.westchesterbooksale.com) or call Tori Hettinger at 310.670.9792.



**Beverly Hills** spent a day at the Beverly Hills farmers market sharing their reusable grocery bags, selling earthquake preparedness kits, and bringing awareness to the community.



## Rancho Park Rotary Club

**President: Sholeh Shams Shahbaz**

**Presents:**

## Los Angeles County Sheriff Jim McDonnell



**Wednesday May 9th**

**12.00 to 1.30 pm**

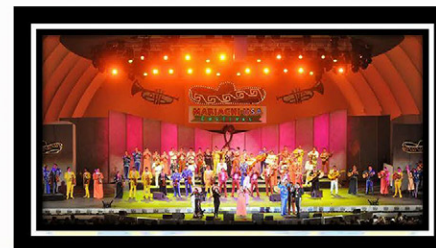
### Olympic Collection

11301 W. Olympic Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90064

**RSVP Required.** Call or email: 310-691-0104 sholehshams@msn.com



Club Rotario De Latinos Unidos  
Invites you to join us at our  
18<sup>th</sup> Annual Mariachi USA Fundraiser



**Saturday, June 23, 2018**

"Pre-Party" (food & drinks) promptly from 12 PM - 3:00 PM

Blanco Park  
5801 Sawtelle Blvd.  
Culver City CA 90230  
(Cross Street Jefferson Blvd. / Behind Toys R Us)

"Party Bus" departs @ 3:00 p.m. (Sharp)

\$135.00 per person (21 and over only)

(Pre-Party Food & Drinks (Includes Alcohol), Transportation to and from Hollywood Bowl, and Mariachi Ticket)

**Non-Refundable** deposit of \$75.00 per Ticket **due by March 15th** to reserve your ticket(s)

and

**Ticket balance due by May 15th**

Questions? Please contact: Brenda Jaramillo—at 310-218-9578 or by email [bjaramillo@crlu.org](mailto:bjaramillo@crlu.org)

Please make checks payable to CRLU

(Indicate member who sold you the tickets on your check) and mail to:

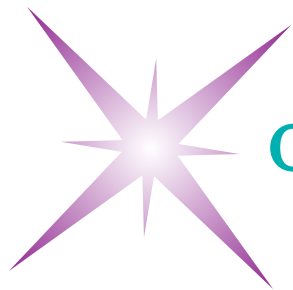
Tower Insurance c/o Gerardo Jaramillo 4244 Overland Avenue Culver City, CA 90230



*All proceeds support Club Rotario de Latinos Unidos High School Scholarships and various projects throughout the year!*







## OTHER NEWS

from District 5280



Our District is part of **SCANEX**, which covers eight districts in Southern California, Nevada, Utah, and Hawaii. Recently, there was an orientation for the outbound exchange students who will be spending the next school year in 12 countries.

UNPARALLELED LUXURY ABOARD  
THE GRAND FLAGSHIP CAPTAIN MATTHEW FLINDERS

SUNDAY  
**JUNE 24**  
6:30 PM

COCKTAILS & HEAVY APPETIZERS  
**PRO DJ GREAT MUSIC**

**TORONTO HARBOR  
CRUISE & RECEPTION  
MARIPOSA CRUISES**

DOCK: 207 QUEEN'S QUAY WEST  
(JUST 10-MINUTE WALK FROM CONVENTION CENTER)

**\$70/PERSON** (INCLUDES FIRST DRINK ON  
US & HEAVY APPETIZERS)  
CHILDREN UNDER 3 ARE FREE

BOARDING 6:30 - 7PM  
CRUISING 7 - 9PM  
DOCKING & DISEMBARK 9 - 9:30PM

Rotary 

DISTRICT 5240 & DISTRICT 5280

# SCHMOOZE CRUISE

TO REGISTER, PLEASE VISIT **BIT.LY/ROTARYTORONTOCRUISE**

FOR INFO, PLEASE CONTACT SCOTT PHILLIPS AT [SCOTT@SYNERGYINC.NET](mailto:SCOTT@SYNERGYINC.NET) OR NORA MACLELLAN AT [DOUGNORA@AOL.COM](mailto:DOUGNORA@AOL.COM)

ALL ATTENDEES MUST REGISTER AND PAY IN ADVANCE AT [BIT.LY/ROTARYTORONTOCRUISE](https://bit.ly/rotarytorontocrui);  
WALK-INS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED ON THE VESSEL. REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS JUNE 12, 2018







## MAKE A DREAM COME TRUE

Published monthly by Rotary District 5280.  
Submit material by the 20th of the month prior to  
publication to Michael Turner at  
[bearsworth@earthlink.net](mailto:bearsworth@earthlink.net).

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